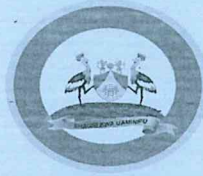


COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NAIROBI CITY



NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY
THIRD ASSEMBLY- THIRD SESSION

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
4th June 2024

RESUMPTION FROM LONG RECESS

Resumption from long Recess

Honorable Members, I have the following Communication to convey:

Distinguished colleagues, esteemed members of the press, and valued citizens, I welcome you all back to this chamber after a period of well-deserved recess. While these past weeks may have provided an opportunity for personal renewal, the world outside this precincts has continued to operate. We reconvene today with a renewed sense of purpose, ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in trust for the people and within the ambit of our mandate. The time for reflection has therefore passed and the public, who are our constituents, are eagerly awaiting our return to business. They entrust us with the responsibility of shaping the future, navigating complex issues and delivering on the promises we made.

Honorable Members,

The specific nature of those challenges will, of course, vary depending on the body we represent. However, one thing remains constant: the need for us to approach our work with a spirit of collaboration, compromise and a genuine desire to serve the greater good. The headlines during our absence may have been dominated by rallying call for use to rise to the occasion with respect to issues of urban planning in the County, challenges facing the health sector, need for urgent interventions during the recent flooding, cost of doing business, deteriorating public transport sector and

provision of reliable water and sewerage services. These issues, Honorable Members, fall properly within our Constitutional mandate. We have been endowed with adequate tools in both Plenary and Committees to ensure that the County Executive is put to task to provide quality, affordable and reliable services in relation to all the Sectors. It is therefore a wakeup call to all of us here and collaboratively with the County Executive to re-double our collective efforts through legislations, policies, and practical activities to service our constituents.

To achieve this, I urge you all to:

- 1) **Prioritize civility:** The power of respectful discourse cannot be overstated. Heated rhetoric and personal attacks serve only to further divide us. Let us engage in open and honest debate, acknowledging the validity of opposing viewpoints while striving to find common ground.
- 2) **Focus on solutions, not slogans:** We are all here because we care. Let's translate that passion into concrete solutions for the County. We must move beyond soundbites and engage in the difficult but necessary work of crafting effective policies.
- 3) **Remember the people we serve:** The decisions we make here have a real and tangible impact on the lives of those we represent. Let us never lose sight of that responsibility. Let every vote, every debate, and every bill be guided by the principle of serving the greater good.

Pending Business

Honorable Members,

You may recall that in my previous Communications, I have emphasized the need for the Committees and Plenary alike, to prioritize and conclude pending business in order to fit an effective legislature. However, I have observed, through a report presented at the Sittings of the Select Committees on Assembly Business and on Liaison that the performance of the Assembly was not satisfactory. For instance, Committees are not observing timelines set out in statutes and the Standing Orders

while processing of crucial business such as Bills, Petitions and Statements. This has occasioned pile up of business that require consideration and determination by the Plenary. Honorable Members, as we pursue our collective mandate, it is important to note that we are continuously being assessed by our constituents.

Honorable Members,

Therefore, I am once again call upon Chairpersons of all Committees to rise to the occasion and ensure that respective Committees process all pending business in the next **Twenty-one days** and present the same for consideration by the Assembly. Chairpersons have reported a number of challenges including but not limited to insufficient commitment by some CEC Members to legislative business. In this regard, I am aware that the Select Committee on Liaison is scheduled to convene a meeting with the County Attorney and the County Secretary to set in motion some measures to ensure flow of business. I am also aware that the Select Committee on Liaison has noted the challenge of pending business and issued specific directions on the same. Therefore, the collectivity of the foregoing measures should prompt enhanced traffic of business to be considered.

Reconstituted Committees

Honorable Members,

Before the Assembly proceeded for the Long Recess, Party Leaderships examined the performance of two Committees and found it fit to reconstitute the Sectoral Committee on Water and Sanitation and the Select Committee on Public Accounts to enhance output and performance. Before the two Committees, are crucial business including pieces of legislation and numerous audit reports whose timelines are set out in the Constitution of Kenya, our Standing Orders and Statutes. As your Speaker, I not only concern myself with the overall performance of the Assembly but also appreciate the crucial input and challenges of individual entities. Thus, it is my expectation that the new Memberships and leaderships of the two Committees will

quickly settle to business and deal with all pending work as quickly as possible. I understand that from PAC, the Assembly is expecting more than 10 audit reports. As such, I call up upon the Chairman, Hon. Chege Mwaura and the new Committee membership to step up your efforts to clear your tray because the Assembly is expecting much from you this time round.

Legislative mandate

Honorable Members,

Legislation is at the core of our mandate and it is one of the key items we are assessed against both by the public represent and oversight bodies such as Auditor General, Commission of Revenue Allocation and the Senate. Comparatively, this Assembly is yet to give an indication that we will achieve the target of Bills and legislations set out in our Strategic Plan. I am aware that there are a number of Bills that are at various stages. I am also aware that my office is in receipt of a number of legislative proposals including proposals to legislate on water and sewerage services. However, this should not make us complacent, rather we should continuously originate new and innovative ideas to address challenges facing service delivery in the County. I encourage you to make use of the Secretariat provided by the Office of the Clerk to package these ideas into acceptable proposals. Nonetheless, I call upon the Office of the Clerk to expedite the processing of the said legislative proposals.

Honorable Members,

I am aware that the Select Committee on Liaison under the leadership of the Deputy Speaker has already held its 4th Quarter forum where they took stock of Committee activities and resolved that unlike the previous 3 Quarters, there will be two collective capacity building and sensitization works in the 4th Quarter. It is my expectation that there will be candid discussions and deliberations on Assembly mandate and welfare of Members in view of improving performance. Accordingly, may I seize this moment to applaud the Select Committee on Liaison under the leadership of the Deputy Speaker for continuously engaging yourself with the

business of effective Committee system by allocating resources and reviewing policies to ensure Committees operate seamlessly.

Honorable Members,

May I reiterate that my Office is fully committed to ensuring that you are fully facilitated and supported to deliver on your individual and collective mandate, thus I call upon you to pursue our objective with unity of purpose and objective discourse that is devoid of divisive rhetoric. I have confidence that, with this resolve, we shall deliver on our Constitutional duty with efficiency and effectiveness.

I thank you Honorable Members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kennedy Okeyo Ng'ondi', is written over several horizontal lines that have been scribbled out.

The Hon. Kennedy Okeyo Ng'ondi, MCA
SPEAKER, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th June, 2024